

THE DATE AND PLACE OF
LINCOLN'S BIRTH

DRAWER 11

BIRTHPLACE CABIN

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Kentucky

Birthplace Cabin

Date and Place of Lincoln's Birth

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

LINCOLN'S BIRTH

By Dr. Frank Crane

SOMETIMES a cartoon appears with a whole bookful of truth and thought packed into a few square inches of sketched-in lines.

Such a one appeared some time ago entitled "Hardin County, 1809."

Two Kentucky farmers met on the road and the following conversation ensued:

"Any news down t' the village, Ezry?"

"Well, Squire McClean's gone t' Washington t' see Madison swore in and ol' Spellman tells me this Bonaparte fella has captured most o' Spain. What's new out here, neighbor?"

"Nuthin' at all, nuthin' at all, 'cept for a new baby down t' Tom Lincoln's. Nuthin' ever happens out here."

Nothing happened at all—only Abraham Lincoln was born!

Between the lines of this little dialogue can be sensed the secret of Lincoln's hold upon the hearts of common men.

More than five thousand books have been written about him since his death in 1865. Speakers of wide experience say the mention of his name arouses an interest in the average audience that few subjects can equal.

His humble beginning, his shy, unobtrusive growth, draw him closer to the common man than any other great figure of history.

His roots were deep in the soil of common life.

His life story is a simple, straightforward tale of a man who started humbly and rose to immortal greatness.

There is no jarring note of the manufactured miraculous or the supernatural in it—except the undying miracle of the power of character.

He is not credited with being the descendant of any sacred white elephant, as was Gautama, the moral teacher of the East.

There is no story of his being carried to the top of a high tower by invisible hands or of his rebuking frogs, as a child, so that they became forever still, as was told of Augustus, the "God Emperor" of Rome—the man who used to guard himself against thunder by wearing the skin of a sea-calf, and who had a slave crucified alive for killing a favorite quail.

There is only the story of a life associated with homely, everyday things—with one-room log cabins, with corn pone and hominy, with Hankses and Sparrows, with a rough frontier environment, with hard labor at sixteen cents a day.

It is just the story of a growing boy who chopped logs and tramped the woods and was thrilled by the story of "The Father of His Country."

The interest and inspiration found in Lincoln's life lies in its simplicity, its humanity, its development of the traits of common people to the nobility of everlasting greatness.

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LINCOLN LORE

No. 42

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

January 27, 1930

LINCOLN LORE

BULLETIN OF
THE LINCOLN
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



ENDOWED BY
THE LINCOLN
NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE
COMPANY

Dr. Louis A. Warren

Editor

LINCOLN BORN IN BURLINGTON

In the archives of our county and state buildings there lie buried many Utopian communities. They are as interesting as the ruins of ancient towns discovered by the excavations of scientific and historical expeditions. After the settlement of the colonies, the Kentucky country became the rendezvous of the land speculator and the adventurer. Here, in this wonderland, the pioneers planned their dream cities. Some of the efforts expired shortly after the first enthusiastic outburst of the immigrants who built their cabins in an apparent "Garden of Eden." Other settlements survived long enough to announce lot sales and advertise the advantages of their ideal locations. Still other towns flourished for a time and then gradually disappeared as some more convenient centers of trade and social life sprang up near by. Until Abraham Lincoln was twenty-seven years of age he lived in, or near, one of these now extinct communities.

New Salem, Illinois, Lincoln's home before removing to Springfield, was one of those towns which "winked out," as Lincoln put it. Not far from his Indiana home, and but a short distance from a point on the Ohio River where he worked for two years, the city of Ohiopiomingo was laid out. It was to be built on the Kentucky shore of the Ohio, and its location was designated on some of the early maps of the western country. Here the promoters proposed to develop, on the very frontier of civilization, a city of great beauty and influence. Building sites were presented to officials prominent in governmental affairs. At each one of the four corners of the town a lot was laid off "for the reception of Indians." Near Lincoln's boyhood home on Knob Creek, in Kentucky, English speculators proposed to build a magnificent city called Lystra. Its avenues were to be one hundred feet wide, houses were to be set back from the street a specified distance, lots were reserved for churches, a college, public buildings, and park sites. Lystra, which appeared on an early map as the most prominent town in the Kentucky country, and Ohiopiomingo, the queen of the frontier, never became much more than names.

Adjacent to the farm which Lincoln's father bought in 1808, there

was established the town of Burlington. Similar to the efforts already mentioned, it was little more than a "paper city." This brings us to the tale of two towns struggling for economic supremacy, unconscious of the greater honor which was to be the reward of the survivor. In this backwoods contest the name of America's "Bethlehem" was at stake.

The earliest settlements in Kentucky grew up about the forts. With the passing of the Indians the mills became the community centers. On the same day, December 9, 1788, four years before Kentucky became a state, two men walked into the courthouse at Bardstown, in Nelson County, then Virginia, later Kentucky, and presented petitions for the establishment of mills on Nolin River. Around the mill of Robert Hodgen, one of these pioneers, there grew up a settlement which was to bear his name. Near the mill of John Close, the other pioneer, a community gradually took form which was to be known as Burlington.

The will of Robert Hodgen was dated February 1, 1810, a year after the birth of Lincoln. To his wife, Sarah Hodgen, he gave "the plantation where I now live together with the grist mill." On February 7, 1818, the widow and John Hodgen, executor of the Robert Hodgen estate, petitioned the justices of Hardin County for the establishment of a town on the Hodgen plantation. Two days later the following record appears: "A town is established on the lands of Robert Hodgen, deceased, on Nolin, agreeable to the said petition and plan which is to be ordered to be entered on record, to be called and known by the name of Hodgenville."

On July 1, 1816, John Welsh bought of Alexander Merrifield 100 acres of land, including the mill site formerly owned by John Close. Welsh also purchased of Merrifield 250 acres adjoining this 100-acre tract. This property was adjacent to the farm on which Abraham Lincoln was born. The Welsh holdings were soon in litigation, and it is from the depositions in the suit Welsh vs. Merrifield that we learn the story of Burlington. There is also revealed in these depositions a description of the community in which the Lincolns resided on the South Fork of Nolin River.

The settlement near Close's Mill boasted of a tavern. One of the deponents testified that "it was considered a good stand for some time. It was a very public place." A question by Welsh, the plaintiff, gives us a description of this settlement with some detail: "At the time the place was noted as a good stand, was there not a ball battery and race paths and did you not understand that I immediately destroyed the battery and race paths much to the advantage of the neighborhood?" Further evidence

shows that there was a large distillery, a blacksmith shop, and a store-room in the settlement. The birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, but half a mile away, may not have been such a desolate place as many biographers of Lincoln have imagined.

It was this site, where Merrifield had been conducting his tavern and kindred interests for several years, that Welsh selected for the establishment of Burlington. Many weeks before the petition for the founding of Hodgenville was presented, Welsh employed a man by the name of Findley to lay off the town. In the month of March, 1815, an auction sale of these town lots took place, with Robert McClure as auctioneer. McClure had previously been appointed a trustee of the town by the Hardin County Court, in a deposition he stated he was "the crier of the lots sold in Burlington." He further testified that twenty-four or more lots were sold and that the amount of the purchase money was about twenty-four hundred dollars.

In the deposition of James Redmond, we learn from the questions put to him by the defendant, Merrifield, something of the rivalry which existed between these communities at Close's and Hodgen's Mills: "Did you ever hear the plaintiff complain of fraud until after Hodgenville was erected and the purchasers of lots began to improve their lots? . . . Was not the plaintiff very angry at Hodgen for erecting the town of Hodgenville as he thought he had the first right?" To this last question the deponent replied: "The plaintiff claimed the right and thought he had the best right but as to his being angry with Hodgen I cannot say."

In the pioneer days the old trail, known as the Cumberland Road, which passed immediately in front of Thomas Lincoln's cabin door, missed the site of Hodgenville by at least three miles. A later change in the location of this roadbed directed the travel by Hodgen's Mill, which gave the trading advantage over its rival to Hodgenville. This soon resulted in the collapse of Burlington. Hodgenville did not receive any special recognition until twenty-five years after its establishment as a town. In 1843 the southeastern part of Hardin County was set apart and another county formed. The new county was called LaRue, and Hodgenville was made the county seat.

It was at the expense of Burlington that Hodgenville attained fame as the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln.

A native of LaRue County visited President Lincoln at Washington in the month of July, 1861. In the course of conversation Mr. Lincoln said, "I was born at Cave Spring about two and a half miles south of Hodgenville," and he might have continued, "near where the town of Burlington once stood."

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January 28th, 1931.

John B. MacHarg,
Lawrence College,
Appleton, Wisconsin.

My dear Sir:

On the county map I have indicated the location of "Farmington". The house may be easily distinguished since a long lane of trees leads to it and it is exactly opposite the Gardner Lane. The building is well preserved and there are something under 20 acres in the property which is occupied by a family of the name of Bischoff.

Mr. James Speed, editor the Southern Agriculturist in the Equitable Life and Casualty Building, this city, is a member of the "Farmington" Speed family, but I do not know the exact relationship. I am sure he would be glad to answer any inquiry you might wish to direct to him. Have you by any chance run across the letter written by Abraham Lincoln to Mrs. Speed, thanking her for a Bible given to him upon his visit to them in Louisville?

The Filson Club (118 W. Breckinridge St., Louisville, Ky.) will be addressed, probably at the March meeting, by Dr. Louis Warren, Fort Wayne, Indiana, his subject being "Abraham Lincoln, Senior." In view of the fact that the Lincoln farm where Abraham, Sr., was killed by an Indian is very possibly in Jefferson County just off the Long Run road, we are interested to know whether or not Dr. Warren will touch on this point. Dr. Barton visited this place several years ago. Whether from lack of time, or his failure to find sufficient evidence, we do not believe that anything definite was announced.

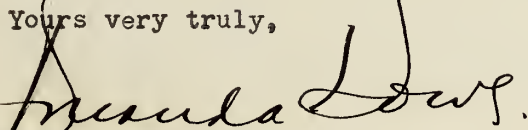
As a member of the Filson Club, I shall receive a copy of the Quarterly giving the address. This will no doubt be

Page #2.

new and interesting material. Should he touch on the Jefferson County "ancestral home" and should you be interested, I shall be glad to let you have my issue.

I know Mr. James Speed very well and if there is any information I can get from him for you, I shall be glad to do so.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amanda Howe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Amanda Howe, Manager,
TOURING BUREAU.

28 Feb. 1931

Miss Amanda Howe, Manager
TOURING BUREAU
Louisville Automobile Club
LOUISVILLE

My dear Miss Howe:

My tardy answer to your letter does not at all express my appreciation of your kindness in writing me and sending the maps for which I thank you sincerely. There is nothing in the field of letters that I enjoy so much as the study of Lincoln but my duties are so many that I simply cannot take time to do as I should like to do.

In the near future I hope to write Mr. Speed and sometime I hope I may meet him in person. I found "Farmington" one of the most fascinating Lincoln shrines I have ever visited. I wish to go there again and I hope then to find a movement under way to preserve the house as a museum.

I think there is no letter to Mrs. Speed thanking her for the Bible. Beveridge, Abraham Lincoln, vol. I, 321, states that "twenty years later he sent her his photograph with an inscription above his signature, recalling this gift." The note gives his authority. "Speed to Herndon, Feb. 9 and Sept. 13, 1866. Weik MSS."

Dr. Barton published a very full account of his studies in Jefferson County which you will find in Chapter VII, 51ff. of his LINEAGE OF LINCOLN. Miss Tarbell has also written on the subject. I should be much interested in the Quarterly of the Filson Club and should be grateful for it and for anything that may help me in my studies.

If it is not too much to ask, I should like another copy of the Road Map of Jefferson County. I could also use to advantage another AAA map of Kentucky. If I can serve you at anytime, in any way, please call upon me.

Very truly yours

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor.
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

No. 252

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

February 5, 1934

THE DATE AND PLACE OF LINCOLN'S BIRTH

The one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth invites a review of the available evidence which fixes the date and place of his nativity. No vital statistics were kept in Kentucky during the days the Lincolns lived there, so we will not expect to find an official record of his birth.

It becomes necessary, first of all, to determine the location of the home in which Lincoln's parents were living at the time he is supposed to have been born. On December 12, 1808, the father, Thomas Lincoln, purchased 300 acres of land near the South Fork of Nolin River in Hardin County, Kentucky, and there is every reason to believe that he took possession immediately.

In 1809 the name of Thomas Lincoln, which had been entered regularly for six years on the Commissioner's Books of Hardin County, appeared in a new district which included the citizens living in the neighborhood of the South Fork of Nolin. This fact confirms the supposition that the Lincolns were living on the farm acquired in 1808 and establishes their residence in that part of Hardin County which later became LaRue.

The first direct reference to Abraham Lincoln in a duly authorized document is found in the 1810 United States Census report at Washington, D. C. He is referred to as "one white male under ten years of age." On this record Thomas Lincoln, as head of the family, is entered as living in Hardin County, Kentucky. The report reveals that there were four people in the family: one male under ten years of age, one male between twenty-six and forty-five, one female under ten years of age, and one female between twenty-six and forty-five. These citations refer to Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Lincoln, Sarah Lincoln, and Nancy Hanks Lincoln respectively. The United States census for 1820 indicates that Abraham Lincoln was between ten and sixteen years of age at that time.

Possibly the first occasion in which Abraham's signature appears, in connection with a date associated with his age, is his voting at the Clary Grove precinct in Sangamon County on August 1, 1831. Sometime previous to this date he must have reached his twenty-first year.

Usually the family Bible is the first place we look for the birth record of a

child born in the pioneer days. Here in Lincoln's own handwriting is recorded this entry:

"Abraham Lincoln son of Thomas & Nancy Lincoln was born February 12, 1809."

One of Abraham Lincoln's relatives by the name of David Lincoln wrote to him in 1848 and made some inquiries about his family. He replied on April 2:

"My father, Thomas, is still living in Coles County, Illinois, being in his seventy-first year of his age... I am his only child. I am now in my fortieth year."

Lanham, the compiler of the Dictionary of Congress, sent to Mr. Lincoln in 1850 the usual request for an autobiographical sketch to appear in the publication. The first line of the data he supplied follows:

"Born February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky."

I was born February 12th, 1809, in then Hardin County, Kentucky, at a point within the new county of LaRue, a mile or a mile and a half from where Hodgen's Mill now is.

A. Lincoln.

On December 20, 1859, a brief sketch was prepared by Lincoln for Jesse Fell in which he said:

"I was born February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky... removed from Kentucky to what is now Spencer County, Indiana, in my eighth year (1816)... At twenty-one I came to Macon County, Illinois (1830)." All of these ages and dates confirm his previous statements about the time of his birth.

Some correspondence which he carried on with Samuel Haycraft of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, in 1860, presents both positive and negative testimonials about his birth place:

"I was not born in Elizabethtown but my mother's first child, a daughter two years older than myself and now long since deceased, was. I was born February 12, 1809, near where Hodginsville now is then in Hardin County."

In another letter to Haycraft a few days later Lincoln said:

"The place on Knob Creek mentioned by Mr. Reed I remember very

well but I was not born there. As my parents have told me I was born on Nolyn, very much nearer Hodgen's Mill than the Knob Creek place is. My earliest recollection, however, is of the Knob Creek place."

Some time after this correspondence Lincoln had occasion to refer to the Haycraft inquiry again in a letter written to George G. Fogg. Here he mentions his birthplace again:

"Soon after the Chicago nomination I was written to by a highly respectable gentleman of Hardin County, Kentucky, inquiring if I was a son of Thomas Lincoln, whom he had known long ago in the county. I answered that I was and that I was myself born there."

One of the first newspaper men to interview Lincoln after his nomination was John Locke Scripps. He persuaded Lincoln to write a brief biographical sketch which he prepared in the third person. It contained these references to his birthplace and age:

"Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, then in Hardin County, now in the more recently formed County of LaRue, Kentucky... Moved to Indiana in the Autumn of 1816, Abraham then being in his eighth year... On March 1, 1830 Abraham Lincoln had just completed his twenty-first year."

On June 14, 1860, an artist by the name of Hicks asked Mr. Lincoln for a brief sketch of his life. The review contained this paragraph:

"I was born February 12th, 1809, in then Hardin County, Kentucky, at a point within the new County of LaRue, a mile or a mile and a half from where Hodgen's Mill now is. My parents being dead, and my own memory not serving, I know no means of identifying the precise locality. It was on Nolin Creek."

The fact that Lincoln stated in this sketch that he had "no means of identifying the precise locality" has encouraged some people to discount all he ever said about his birthplace. At least five times he wrote he was born in old Hardin County and twice mentioned it was in that section that later became LaRue County. Three times he mentioned the water course, Nolin, on which his father's farm was situated. At least five times he mentioned Hodgen's Mill or Hodgenville and finally stated the approximate distance of his birthplace from this point.

It appears from the evidence gathered that there should be no confusion as to when and where Abraham Lincoln was born.

Highlights in the History of Hardin County

By R. GERALD McMURTRY

Physical Characteristics of

The Community in Which Lincoln was Born

Hardin County Kentucky 5-6-37
The Lincoln birthplace farm breaks would have also received necessary attention for a home site. Soil would have been considered but game would have been of the greatest importance. The Lincoln biographer with a biased mind naturally saw the community in a different light. He compared a pioneer cabin with a modern home, making no mention of the fact that some of the presidents preceeding Lincoln were likewise born in log cabins. He cited incidents of hardship, which people in his day were not subject to. He failed to consider the work of a pioneer, contrasted with that of an experienced farmer. He saw eighteenth century conditions with a modern nineteenth century mind. He failed to accurately and completely state the facts.

It had been an open prairie for many years before the advent of the white man and its surface was carpeted with wild grasses, wild rye, wild oats, and the like which made excellent grazing grounds for American big game. It was a game paradise and here was to be found the American buffalo, elk or wapiti, and deer numbering hundreds and even thousands. In short it was an ideal section for a settlement, even though the pioneer avoided the territory as they later avoided the western prairie—the pioneer needed a more secluded spot, a natural fortress, with timber for building homes and fortifications.

To the average early biographer the name Barrens was taken literally and they eagerly commented on the fact that Lincoln was born in a section of Kentucky known as the "Barrens"—"a mere barren glade."

While there is no attempt to prove that the soil of the birthplace farm was of good quality, it is true that it was suitable for pioneer needs. The first pioneers thought primarily of self preservation and their lands were located, if they wished to enjoy a long life, near some natural formation where in a sense a shelter could be obtained. It is very true that Thomas Lincoln had no cause to fear an Indian attack, but he lived near settlements that had sprung up because of these features.

To a traveler the physical features of a country are of paramount importance. An early traveler, Andre Michaux, describes the

The physical features of central Kentucky, especially that part in which Lincoln was born, today presents a very pleasing appearance. The roads are both beautiful and interesting, and it is not unlikely that many visitors to the sites of Lincoln's Kentucky homes are surprised at the natural beauty of the surrounding country. Home sites on "barren glades" cannot be discerned.

The pioneer in settling a tract of land was always concerned with the water supply and the birthplace farm had one of the finest springs in the entire county. This farm was in addition located on the waters of the South Fork of Nolin river. A recent United States Geological Survey has revealed that Nolin river has more bends and turns in its course than any other stream in the United States. To get from one point to another just six miles away it winds a distance of twenty miles. Such a winding stream as that of Nolin river naturally makes it one of the most beautiful water courses in Kentucky.

When the Lincoln family moved from the South Fork (birthplace) farm, to the farm located on Knob Creek, many biographers proceeded to condemn its unlikely possibilities. It appears that few pioneers have been so maliciously criticized as Thomas Lincoln. To him

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

NINTH AND BROADWAY
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

FRANK D. PETERSON
Supervising State Director

ROBERT K. SALYERS
Deputy State Director

Hodgenville, Kentucky
September 3, 1937

Dr. L. A. Warren
Lincoln National Life Ins Co.,
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

Knowing of your great interest in anything concerning Lincoln, I felt sure this news would be of interest to you. The National Youth Administration of Kentucky under my personal supervision has been making a tabulation of the actual number of tourists visiting the Lincoln National Park for the last few weeks and we just finish our figures on the month of August, we had 34,112 tourists to visit the park in the thirty one days. We found that about fifty percent of the people do not take time to register, and that is the reason that the government did not know that so many people were visiting this beautiful park.

The following foreign countries visited or I mean were represented at the park during the month, Budapest, Hungary; Mexico City, Mexico; Paris, France; Berlin, Germany; South Africa; Honolulu, Hawaii; Seoul, Korea; Tientsin, China; and many from Canada, and all parts of Canada.

NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION

NINTH AND BROADWAY
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

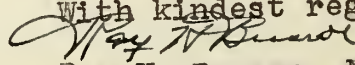
FRANK D. PETERSON
Supervising State Director

ROBERT K. SALYERS
Deputy State Director

(Continued page #2)

We are using forms furnish us by the Department Interior, the information after compiled is turn over to our local Rotary Club and also to the local newspaper and also to the Courier-Journal, Louisville, Kentucky. We had a letter last week from Mr. Edward L. Bike of the Department of Interior and he said, quote, (your figures on the tourists visiting the Lincoln National Park this summer are very startling and very remarkable facts as to how the people are now visiting the parks in Kentucky,) we also had a nice write up from the Louisville Times saying that it was the first time any one had been able to get the authentic figures on this visitors to this park. We had something like 7978 cars in the park during the month and the states led as follows in the number of visitors Ohio, 1009 and then came Indiana , 855 and then Illinois, 678 and then Michigan , 497, and then Tennessee, Wisconsin, and the others on down the line, all states being represented during the month . Hope that this information will be of some interest to you, and if any other information you might desire that we could get for you while we will be working on this work just call on us.

With kindest regards,



Ray H. Busroe, NYA Supervisor

RHB;ak

knob country as follows:

a farm did not take the same
meaning as to a farmer of a later

13 August 1937

Director, World Society
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Director Society:

September 7, 1937

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

KENTUCKY
Mr. R. H. Busree
Hodgenville, Kentucky

Dear Ray:

It is very good indeed to hear from you and I am certainly pleased to know that you have at last solved the problem which had largely been left to guess work.

It is remarkable indeed that so many people visit the Lincoln birthplace farm and I think the Government should know it and have some duly authorized record such as you have prepared.

I do not know of anything else that I could suggest just now that would be helpful, but I am sure you might co-operate with your local Rotary Club by learning to what extent these people stop in Hodgenville either for a purchase or to see the statue. That, it seems to me, would be of great local interest.

If you make further discovery of statistical material, which you think would be of interest, of course we would be very glad to hear from you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

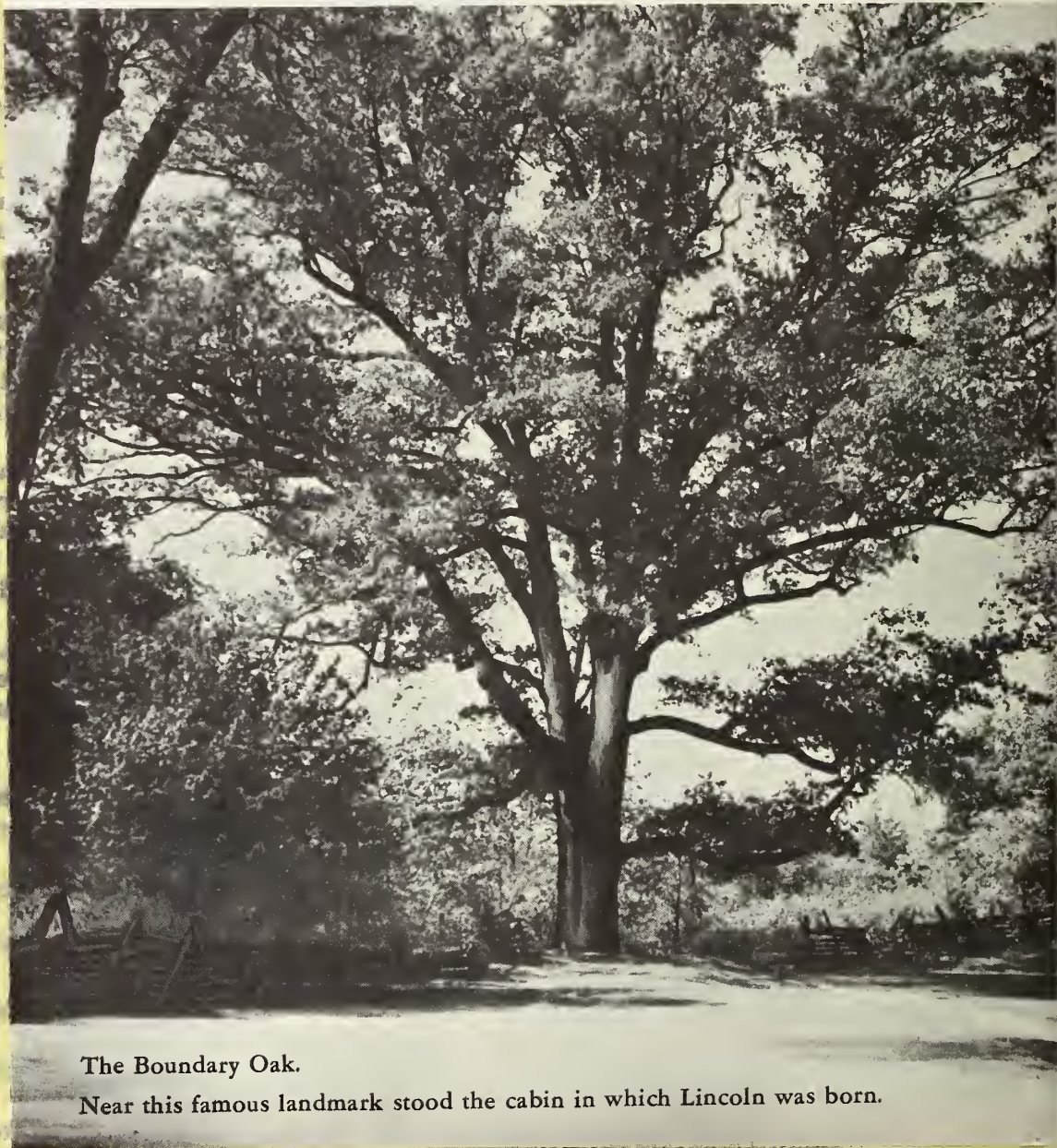
Director

LAW:EB

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE • KENTUCKY



The Boundary Oak.

Near this famous landmark stood the cabin in which Lincoln was born.

23 August 1968

Doctor R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Doctor McMurtry:

There is no particular reason for me to write you other than to send the inclosed copies on a subject you are much interested in.

I have some 500 correspondents all over the United States who send me copies such as the inclosed. I use different techniques in reacting to them. My responses may not be of the scholarly approach but then I am not reacting to scholarly presentations. In the case of the Asheville Citizen article my effort was directed to inducing a feeling of stupidity on the part of the writer. The article was full of gross inaccuracies apart from the Lincoln Myth but I wanted to attack the credibility of the man Parris quoted and the gullibility of Parris himself, rather than to quibble over the other inaccuracies. My correspondent in Asheville has not sent me any more such items so - hopefully - Mr. Parris has abandoned this as a subject to write on.

After 22 years of gathering genealogical records on people of my name in all spellings, I wind up with approximately 9,000 pieces of legally acceptable data, a manuscript of 1085 pages and the lack of means to do anything with it - I simply cannot afford to publish it. As I told you once before, I have never paid any attention to the Lincoln Myth. However, ironically, I not only can disprove the Enlows (Inlow and Enloe) versions of it but I have the documents to show how it started in the first place - all without mentioning the name Lincoln.

In any event, if you do have a Lincoln clipping service and if you do receive copies of items such as the inclosed, I would like to get copies and, on my own, try to stop as much of this stuff as possible.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Enloe
Lt. Col. Thomas A. Enloe, Retd
3720 Forest Grove Drive
Annandale, Virginia 22003



The Sinking Spring.

tributed to this fund. The cornerstone of the building was laid on February 12, 1909, the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, and it was dedicated on November 9, 1911.

The Park

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site comprises 116½ acres of land, nearly 100 acres of which were included in the original Thomas Lincoln farm. Here are the memorial building housing the traditional Lincoln birthplace log cabin, the Sinking Spring, and the ancient boundary oak tree which was a landmark at the time of Lincoln's birth. The area was established as a National Park in 1916. On September 8, 1959, the designation was changed to Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

How To Reach the Park

The Abraham Lincoln birthplace is about 3 miles south of Hodgenville, Ky., on U.S. 31E-State Route 61. Hodgenville is about 50 miles south of Louisville.

Mission 66

The new visitor center, expanded parking areas, and other improvements are part of MISSION 66, a 10-year National Park Service program whose goal is to provide adequate visitor services at all units in the National Park System by 1966.

You may show your appreciation of this historic site by leaving all natural and historic objects unimpaired for others to enjoy.

About Your Visit

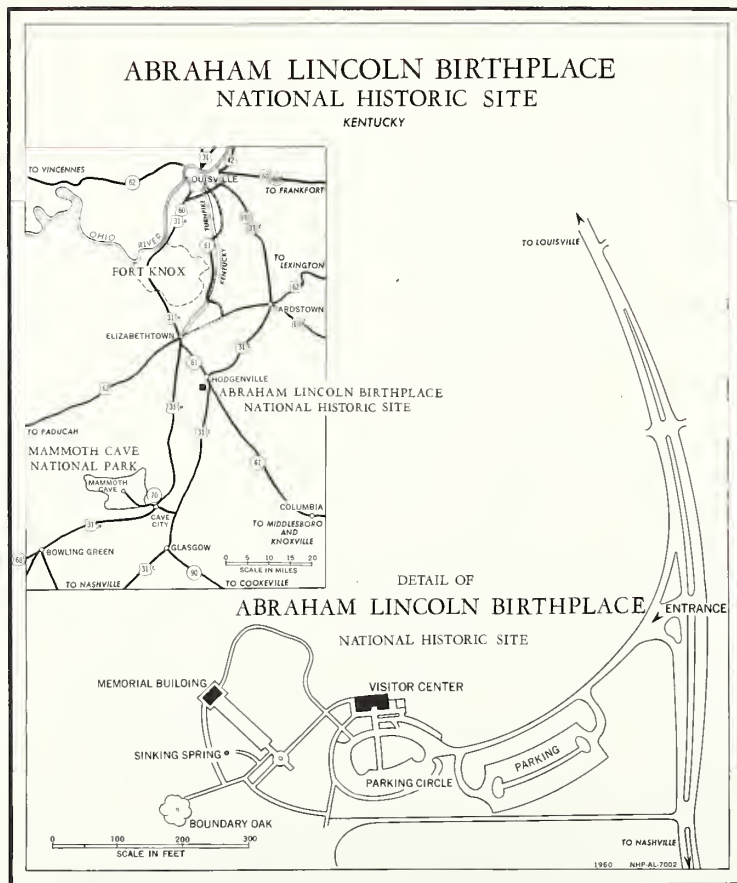
We suggest you begin your tour at the visitor center. Here you will learn about the main points of interest in the area and see an audio-visual program and exhibits depicting Abraham Lincoln's background and early environment in pioneer America. Among the exhibits is the original Bible of Thomas Lincoln.

From September through May, the National Historic Site is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. During June, July, and August, the hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; it is closed on Christmas Day. This area remains on Eastern Standard Time throughout the year.

The Nancy Lincoln Inn near the parking area sells gifts and souvenirs. The inn is privately owned and the National Park Service exercises no control over it.

Administration

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Hodgenville, Ky., is in immediate charge.



Reprint 1961

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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Abraham Lincoln Birthplace

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE • KENTUCKY



The Boundary Oak.

Near this famous landmark stood the cabin in which Lincoln was born.



Abraham Lincoln Birthplace

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

On a raw frontier farm of rolling land on the edge of "the Barrens," in the cabin by the Sinking Spring, was born the man whose strides carried him awkwardly, yet majestically, over a path which began in common Kentucky clay and ended in immortality. Here was born the man who said, "Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world?" More enduring than bronze or marble, this spot shall speak its message of the mystery and majesty of life to Americans down through the ages.

The Lincoln Family

At the close of the Revolution, during Indian wars and raids, the Lincoln family moved to the frontier region of Kentucky. The father of Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President, was Thomas Lincoln; his grandfather was Abraham, for whom he was named. His great-grandfather was John Lincoln, who had moved from near Reading, Pa., to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. John Lincoln's son, Abraham, together with his family, moved across the mountains into Kentucky sometime between 1782 and 1784. Here Abraham, the grandfather, was killed by an Indian from ambush. This event prob-

ably occurred in May 1786. Thomas, the youngest son, was then about 10 years old.

About 1800, Thomas Lincoln settled in Elizabethtown and during the next few years was a hard-working and industrious man of that community, acquiring a reputation as a carpenter.

On June 10, 1806, Thomas Lincoln filed a declaration of intention to marry Nancy Hanks, and 2 days later, they were married by Rev. Jesse Head. The newly married couple made their home in Elizabethtown. Here their first child, Sarah, was born in 1807.

The image of Nancy Hanks is blurred and uncertain to us of this generation. One authority has said of her, "dim as the dream of a shifting mirage, her face and figure waver through the mists of time and rumor." Although her physical features left no definite impression upon the minds of those who years later tried to recall her image, there is an almost unanimous agreement among these witnesses concerning her mental and spiritual attributes. That she was possessed of a fine native intelligence, courage, and a morality above reproach and that she was kind and affectionate seem fairly clear.

The Birthplace of Abraham Lincoln

On December 12, 1808, Thomas Lincoln bought for \$200 in cash the 300-acre Sinking

Spring Farm, situated a few miles south of Hodgen's Mill. Here, he and his wife and their infant daughter took up their abode in a one-room log cabin near a large limestone spring of cool water which had given its name to the place. It was in this one-room log cabin near the Sinking Spring that the child, Abraham, was born to Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln on February 12, 1809.

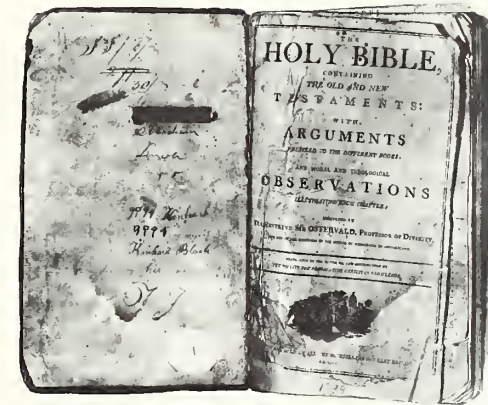
The Lincolns lived about 2½ years at the birthplace site, which eventually was lost to them because of a defective land title. Prior to midsummer in 1811 they moved to a farm on Knob Creek, about 10 miles to the northeast. Their residence there lasted only a few years, for in November or December 1816, Thomas Lincoln left Kentucky and made a new home in the wilderness settlement of Little Pigeon Creek, about 16 miles north of the Ohio River, in Indiana. Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother of Abraham, lived only about 2 years after they moved to

Indiana. An epidemic came to the little settlement on Pigeon Creek and, while attending the stricken, she herself was taken ill and died within a week, on October 5, 1818. The mother of Abraham Lincoln was buried in an unmarked grave in a little clearing in the deep woods.

The Birthplace Cabin

From 1861 to the present, the history of the log cabin which is now displayed within the memorial building is fairly clear. Its history prior to 1861 is a matter of controversy and doubt. Nor is there conclusive evidence concerning the specific location of the original cabin. Certain testimony indicates that it stood on top of the knoll where the memorial building is now situated; still other that it stood under the knoll, a short distance from the Sinking Spring and about on a level with it.

Traditional Lincoln birthplace cabin before it was dismantled.



Bible of Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. George Rodman was the first individual to become interested in preserving the cabin. In March 1861, he bought a log cabin standing on the birthplace farm and moved it a little over a mile to the north and reerected it on his own farm. Here it remained until 1895, when it was purchased by a representative of A. W. Dennett of New York and returned to the Lincoln farm where 110½ acres of land had been purchased about this time by Dennett. In the succeeding years the cabin was dismantled and the logs carefully marked and taken to various expositions throughout the country. Eventually the cabin was stored in the basement of the old Poppenhausen mansion at College Point, Long Island, N.Y. It remained there until 1906 when it was purchased by the Lincoln Farm Association. It was then sent to Louisville under a military escort where, after being reerected as a feature of the Louisville Homecoming celebration, it again went into storage. In 1909, the cabin was moved temporarily to the birthplace farm for the ceremonies attending the laying of the cornerstone of the memorial building. In 1911, upon completion of this structure,

the cabin was taken on the last of its travels back to the site of its origin and reerected within the memorial building.

The Farm and the Memorial Building

In 1904, the Lincoln Farm Association was formed for the purpose of raising funds by popular subscription to purchase the birthplace and make it a national memorial. Richard Lloyd Jones, then managing editor, and Robert J. Collier, publisher of Collier's Weekly, were its leading members. Of the 116½ acres now comprising the historic site, 110½ were purchased for the Lincoln Farm Association in 1905, although title did not pass to the association until 1907. On April 16, 1916, the Lincoln Farm Association deeded its holdings to the United States of America.

The memorial building, designed by John Russell Pope and built of Connecticut pink granite and Tennessee marble, was constructed by the Lincoln Farm Association in the years 1909-11 through funds raised by popular subscription. Over 100,000 citizens, many of them school children, con-

The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and inspiration of its people.

23 August 1968

Mrs. Charles E. Williamson
2701 E. Williams Street
Danville, Illinois 61832

Dear Mrs. Williamson:

I appreciate your letter of 20 August 1968, very much.

In particular, I want to thank you for clearing up the matter of the two wives of your father. The use of genealogical questionnaires is a very tricky business in the sense that conflicting or seemingly conflicting information comes from brothers, sisters, cousins, etc. - all possibly far removed from each other in the geographical sense, and unable to talk with each other as to bits of family data. I think I would prefer it this way rather than overt "collusion", if that is the right word, - because, if there are any differences in thought I want to know of it rather than have the thoughts of one dominated by the thoughts of another. Often, in the process of resolving differences additional information is developed which is valuable in the genealogical sense.

Yes, I believe you represent a small segment of people of this name who still retain the "s" on the end of the name. There are a few people in the United States who use the spelling Inloes but they are not in great numbers. All others of this name have dropped the "s".

I do want to thank you for copying the item from Smoky Mountain Folks and Their Lore. I have seen a number of such items as this but had not seen this one. While I realize you place no credence in it, let me illustrate the nonsensical proportions of these stories by dissecting the words attributed to Mrs. Clem Enloe;

Quote - "According to Mrs. Enloe, Uncle Wes Enloe was Abraham Lincolns true father.He took Nancy Hanks to Kentucky to have the baby and hit borned in Kentucky".

Fact - The Uncle Wes Enloe to whom Mrs. Clem Enloe purportedly referred to was born in 1811. Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809 - some say 1806 - thus, according to the item you copied, Uncle Wes Enloe was truly a remarkable man - he would be led to believe he fathered a child two years before he - Wesley - was born and took the expectant mother into Kentucky some few months before he - Wesley" was born.

Quote - "It is thus presumed that Lincoln acquired his given name from Abe Enloe, Wes's brother. Aden Carver, who also told the story, had it that Abe Enloe, and not Wes, was Lincolns father".

Abe

Fact - Wesley Enloe had no brother named/although he did have a brother named Abram Turner Enloe but I will not quibble over this fine distinction. Abram Turner Enloe was born in 1818. Thus, his participation in this scurrilous tale would be even more remarkable than that of Wesley - if this is possible.

Again, I want to thank you for your letter, the questionnaire you filled out, the clearing up of your fathers two marriages and for the copying of the item for me. I am pleased that you found the records interesting which I sent you.

Sincerely,

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Enloe, Retd
3720 Forest Grove Drive
Annandale, Virginia 22003

Grandmother Enloe of Tight Run-- from Smoky Mountain Folks and
Their Lore by Joseph S. Hall

Mrs. Clem Enloe, an energetic and determined old woman of eighty-five years, was digging angle worms around her house when I arrived. She lived on Tight Run, a small stream or "drear (drain)" near Ravensford. She eyed my approach severely and cut short the banalities of introduction by exclaiming, "See that?" She pointed to a can half full of worms. "I use them for fishing, and I'm the only one if this Park who's allowed to". She was almost a legend now, so many tales had grown up around her relating to her encounters with Park Severice officials about her supposed fishing rights. "I fish winter and summer," she added emphatically, implying that stringent Park regulations meant nothing to her. It was generally agreed that she was harmless, though vociferous. Her chief interest in life was fishing. On almost any day she could be seen on the road with a string of fish in one hand, and her long pole in the other, or sitting in some shady spot with her line in the water.

A strange combination of qualities was Grandmother Enloe, as she was called by her neighbors. One moment she was explaining that she soon expected the call to eternal rest, even singing for my benefit a portion of a heavenly tune which she said she had heard the angels sing a night or two previously. The next moment she was cursing in vulgar terms the Swain County officials at Byson City for not paying her enough relief money.

Induced to forego her fishing for one morning and to tell a little of her family history, as well as some of the events of her younger days, she led me into her living room and began: "My pa was William Connolly. He helped send off the Injuns to Arkansas. His pa gave him a piece of land on Shoal Creek and he traded it for some land here. My daddy come from Kentucky when he was a baby (about 1810).

"I had two brothers, Jess and Dee Connolly, who were in the War. They were on the Rebel side and I'm a Rebel yit. Brother Dee had a Testament which he carried about his heard. Hit saved his life once when a bullet hit him.

"Colonel Thomas was the richest man in this country. He was chief over the Injuns. When my daddy was som'ers in the fifty (in the fifties) he went with Colonel Thomas to the top of Smoky to keep the Yankees back. But they come through here. I never saw the like of soldiers in my life. Every man had two hosses. Hit tuck from ten in the mornin' till late in the even' (afternoon) for 'em all to git through. They hit that river a-splunjin'.

"Jeff Hughes built this place and sold it to Bob Burchfield. Bob Burchfield and Biny Enloe swapped places. The Enloes came from Rutherford County.

"During the War people had to go to Sevierville or to Augusta (Georgia) to get their provisions. They'd be gone nearly a month."

The story of Abraham Lincoln's supposed illegitimate birth, which was the subject of one of the University of North Carolina Folk Plays, was well known in the vicinity of Oconaluftee. In fact, there was said to be a strong resemblance between Lincoln and the Enloes, to whom he was believed to be related. According to Mrs. Enloe, Uncle Wes Enloe was Abraham Lincoln's true father. Uncle Wes lived "below the bridge at Ravensford in a house that has been gone a long time. He took Nancy Hanks to Kentucky to have the baby and hit borned in Kentucky." Mrs. Enloe knew no further details of this curious account. It is thus presumed that Lincoln acquired his given name from Abe Enloe, Wes's brother. Aden Carver, who also told the story, had it that Abe Enloe, and not Wes, was Lincoln's father.

Before I returned to photograph Grandmother Enloe, I was advised to take her a package of snuff. I was also warned that if she was in her worst mood, she would never consent to having her picture taken. However, she readily accepted my gift and showered me with praise, and in one of the pictures she smiled.

14 March 1965

Mr. John Parris
§ The Asheville Citizen
Asheville, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Parris:

Recently a friend sent me a clipping, presumably from The Asheville Citizen. It was published under your name and presumably in the general period of late February or early March of this year. It concerned Abraham Enloe, pioneer settler of Western North Carolina.

The purpose of this letter is to suggest that possibly you have passed up at least two big stories, i.e.:

You said that Gilbert Enloe landed first in Maryland and then moved to South Carolina.

The story inherent in the above statement is one concerning longevity never before documented in American history. In fact, the Enloes first landed in North America shortly before June 1658 on which date they appeared in record material. They were all born in the period 1630 to 1635. Since Gilbert Enloe died in May 1861 and accepting your statement that he was one of the first to appear in this country, it would appear that he died at the ripe old age of some 223 years. The other one you referred to could be either of two men, one who died in 1799 and the other in 1819. In either case one would have died at age approximately 164 and the other at age 181.

You also said that Gilbert Enloe had a son Abraham, the subject of your article.

In fact, Gilbert Enloe was born in 1776 and Abraham Enloe, subject of your article, was born in 1770. Thus, according to your article, we would seem to have had a second virgin birth in the Christian era.

Sincerely,

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Enloe, Retd.
3720 Forest Grove Drive
Annandale, Virginia 22003

Roaming The Mountains

Abraham Enloe Was Quite A Man

By JOHN PARRIS

MINGUS CREEK — This is where Abraham Enloe pioneered a wilderness settlement and became a legend.

For more than 150 years a heap of folks have insisted he was the father of the great American Civil War president.

Some have argued that Abraham Lincoln was born right here on Mingus Creek in the Great Smokies. Others have insisted he was born on Jonathan's Creek over in Haywood County.

Be that as it may, there was never any disagreement among

them as to who sired Abraham Lincoln.

Yet, few folks outside the



JOHN PARRIS

mountains ever heard of Abraham Enloe. And that's a shame, for he was quite a man and he came from quite a family.

The Enloes were quality folks. They came from Scotland where their folks had been feudal lords and educators.

They landed first in Maryland, and later two of the brothers moved on to South Carolina where they were school teachers. One of these was Gilbert Enloe who settled in York County, raised a family that included a son named Abraham.

When Abraham became a

—Turn To Page Nine—

Cont'd - next page over

Roaming The Mountains

—Continued From Page One

young man, he moved to Rutherford County and married into a prominent family.

Around the turn of the 19th century, Abraham began hearing stories of a virgin land to the west where the mountains touched the clouds, where streams rippled with bass and trout and the soil was rich and black.

The tales he heard intrigued him, so about 1803 he loaded his furniture, his Bible, and his anvils on a wagon and headed for the wilderness beyond the Blue Ridge.

The journey was long and hard. He had to ford creeks and rivers, chop a way through the forest for his wagon. Some times, he and the three families that accompanied him had to pack their effects piecemeal on their backs over some of the steep mountains.

They came at last to a land that was green with the verdancy that only fast water could nourish.

They came to the Valley of the Oconaluftee.

It was a land to make Abraham Enloe's heart grow stronger. The soil was rich. The trees, trooping out of the valley to the sky, were virgin. The air was pure, the water crystal, and the forests were alive with game.

Enloe picked out a spot on Mingus Creek for his home. And there he felled trees and built his mansion. Besides the families that came with him, his only neighbors were the Cherokee Indians.

However, there were other families living within a distance of from 12 to 30 miles. At that time, a settlement embraced a circuit of from 12 to 15 miles, and consisted of many families.

It was such a settlement as this of which Abraham Enloe was the central figure and benefactor.

By profession he was a farm-

er. And he early set a progressive pace for his neighbors in his chosen calling. He owned the first horses in the settlement and he possessed the only forge and blacksmith tools. He kept in repair his own farming implements and also those of his neighbors.

He was a justice of the peace, an office of no little dignity in those days, and he was implicitly turned to as the final arbiter in adjusting differences between his neighbors.

He was the trusted adviser of the politicians, great and small of his party, with whom he came in contact. He was a great friend of Felix Walker, the first member of Congress from Buncombe district, the man who put a new word into our language.

Enloe's house was headquarters for the gospel. The pioneer preacher, no matter his creed, found there a warm welcome.

He trafficked in slaves all the way from Western North Carolina to Florida. At one time he brought 20 slaves back from Florida. He was kind to his slaves and each Sabbath he read and expounded to them the Holy Scriptures.

In his private life, he was esteemed by his neighbors. In his family, he ruled with patience and firmness.

He was the father of seven sons and seven daughters.

He was a big man, over six feet tall, muscular and sinewy, with stiff black hair.

James H. Cathey, who wrote, "The Genesis of Lincoln," which argued that Enloe was the father of Lincoln, talked with many who knew him. And Cathey wrote of Enloe:

"He was simple, honest, brave, an ardent friend of truth. He hesitated not to go on toilsome errands of mercy for his bereft neighbors. He asked nothing in return but the answer of a good conscience. He was the best type of the civilian — plain, honest and unselfish."

NEUROLOGICAL
SURGERY

Floyd S. Barringer, M. D.

704 NORTH FIRST STREET
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62702

TELEPHONE 523-9638

Dear Dr. M^c Martz,

10-24-80

Thank you so very much for the information you sent
re Peggy Watters. I am sure "my" Peggy Watters is not
the same Peggy Watters who was present at Lincoln's birth.

However, I think it very likely they are of the same
family and wonder if their husbands are both very
likely descended from Conrad Watters, Sr. If you should
come across material on Conrad, Sr., I hope you will
remember me.

Our home has a log cabin front room built
by James Watters in June 1823 the oldest home in
Harrison County still standing. Arch. Fennell gave a
campaign speech at "Watters Camp Meeting Ground", near
Old Salem Cemetery across the road from our home June 30, 1838.

As you can see I am an incurable romantic.
On a quiet night in June, I walk across the road
and stand under the old kind maple trees, standing there
in his day, and I can still hear him say - "and,
"if not elected, it will be all the same."

Thank you again for your kindness and help.

Most sincerely,

Fred Bowinger

*Mrs Connel Peggy Walters who was present at
the birth of Abraham Lincoln may be related to Charles
Walters*

Springfield Directory of 1857

Walters, Charles -- clerk in post office, bds sw cor 8th & Market
Walters, Martin -- clerk at State Register office, bds sw cor
8th & Market.

An old timer near here recalls a Charles Martin who worked for him for
~~some~~ years ago. He died in 1955. St. Johns Hospital records show:

Charles Martin Walters - born Feb 17, 1869 and died Sep 3, 1955.

Father: Martin Walters - born in Kentucky.

Mother: Ellen Beddingfield - born in Kentucky.

Wife: Lydia Salzman - born in Kentucky in 1871.

Ada Marie, daughter of C. M. & L. E. Walters is buried in Old Salem
cemetery across the road from the old James Walters home - born Aug 19, 1895
and died Dec 12, 1895.

This Charles Martin Walters lived one mile from here for several years.

His obituary in the Journal-Register of Springfield of Sep 4, 1955:

Charles M. Walters:

Funeral services for Charles M. Walters, of RR 1, Sherman, Illinois,
will be held at 1:30 PM tomorrow at the Ellinger-Kunz funeral home. Burial
will be in Wolf Creek cemetery near Sherman.

Mr. Walters, 86, died at 2:55 AM yesterday at St. John's Hospital.
He was a member of the New Salem Methodist church (1 mile from this house).
Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Eva Knuth of Peoria, two sons, Arthur H. of
Loami, and Lindel E. of Sherman, a brother Edward of Magnolia, Kentucky;
four grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

I have to believe this Charlees Martin Walters must be of the same
family of old James Walters who settled here with his wife Peggy in June
1823. James Walters died in 1835 and is buried across the road in the
Old Salem cemetery though there is no gravestone. Peggy probably went to
Adams county, near Quincy, with her two sons Ezekiel and Nelson as they
all three signed a release of claim in the abstract on June 15, 1848,
witnessed by a notary public of Adams county at that time."

<p>SARA H. (SALLY) WALTERS BORN</p> <p>BURIED MARRIED REZIN (RENSON) RAY BORN BOWMAN</p>	<p>LAVINIA RAY HAMILTON BRENNAN WASHINGTON RAY MARGARET RAY HINCHEE GREENBERRY RAY JAMES RAY</p>	
<p>JEAN WALTERS BORN</p> <p>BURIED MARRIED TABITHA BORN</p> <p>BURIED</p>	<p>ELIZABETH WALTERS NANCY WALTERS JOHN N. WALTERS</p>	
<p>ELIZABETH WALTERS BORN GREEN CO, KENTUCKY FEB 13, 1798 - NOV 1, 1856 BURIED SANGAMON CO, ILL. MARRIED MAY 20, 1814 CALEB SHORT BORN GREEN CO, KENTUCKY APR 19, 1790 - SEP 18, 1863 BURIED SANGAMON CO.</p>	<p>PAULINE SHORT HENTON JAMES SHORT JANE SHORT RENSHAW LUCILLE SHORT FASTER JOSHUA W. SHORT ROWAN J. SHORT</p>	
<p>JAMES WALTERS BORN IN KENTUCKY - JULY 12, 1835 BURIED OLD SALEM CEM. SANGAMON COUNTY, ILL. DIED SANGAMON CO, JUNE 1823</p> <p>MARRIED MARGARET BORN</p> <p>BURIED DIED JUNE 15, 1848 IN ADAMS COUNTY, ILL.</p>	<p>REBECCA WALTERS BORN</p> <p>BURIED MARRIED BOWMAN</p> <p>BORN</p> <p>BURIED</p>	
	<p>LEWIS WALTERS BORN - DEC 8, 1845</p> <p>BURIED NANCY BORN</p> <p>BURIED</p>	
	<p>EZEKIEL WALTERS BORN</p> <p>BURIED ? ADAMS CO, ILL. MARRIED ELEANOR BORN</p> <p>BURIED ? ADAMS CO, ILL.</p>	
	<p>NELSON WALTERS BORN</p> <p>BURIED ? ADAMS CO, ILL.</p>	
	<p>PLEASANT WALTERS BORN</p> <p>BURIED MARRIED MARY ANN BORN</p> <p>BURIED</p>	
	<p>LAVINIA WALTERS BORN</p> <p>BURIED MARRIED JAN 3 1830 PLEASANT W. STOWE BORN</p> <p>BURIED</p>	
	<p>OLIVER WALTERS BORN</p> <p>BURIED - AUG 1, 1835</p>	<p>JOSHUA N. WALTERS TABITHA WALTERS PETTINGER ELIZABETH WALTERS MAXCY</p>

Thousands visit Hodgenville during Lincoln Days event

by Celia McDonald

Hard work, long-term planning and enthusiasm combined with October's finest weather to provide another successful Lincoln Days weekend in Hodgenville. The crowd, estimated conservatively at 15,000, came early, stayed late, bought crafts and souvenirs and ate, and ate, and ate at the various food concessions offered.

Several of those food providers found themselves running out of their product. Members of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church had to do some emergency bean soup making on Saturday evening to prepare for the next day's meals, where long lines continued to form for homemade soup, sandwiches and dessert.

The LCHS Band Boosters banked \$10,000 from Saturday's band contest, though that amount repre-

sents a gross, not profit. The money came from concessions which sold out of food, programs, and a gate of 3,000 people, some of whom had no place to sit down.

A wreath-laying at the statue on the square began the weekend's celebration on Friday with William O. Nichols, Superintendent of Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, placing the memorial on the statue. He was assisted by a group of LaRue County Scouts.

A speech by historian Helen Crocker of Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, followed. The evening was rounded off with a well-attended dinner and show at the high school.

On Saturday, a long list of activities got into full swing, capped by the choosing of a Lincoln Lookalike (perennial favorite Bill Sublett), the parade, pioneer gam-

es and costume contests.

Winner in the Theme Float division of the parade was the Crosstown Homemakers, with "Kentucky's Son." Sunrise Manor Volunteers produced the second place float, "Lincoln--His Kentucky Dreams."

In the open division, Friendship Baptist Church's "Showers of Blessing" took first place with its display of real flowers. Second was "Red, White and Blue, that's our school," by Hodgenville Headstart. Third was "Progress" by Rock and Rogers.

All weekend, people enjoyed the beautifully decorated windows, and one favorite was the display of antique bonnets. The award for the oldest bonnet went to Duley Powers, whose entry was 115 years old.

A large crowd was in town again

on Sunday to enjoy crafts, a worship service on the square, the Railsplitter Run and Fun Run, music by the Lincoln Days Singers, and more Pioneer Games and Horse Games.

Winners of the Pioneer Games were Paul's Gang; the Pioneer Village and Pioneer--Chef portion were won by Hodgenville Fire Department, who finished their last event just in time to answer a fire call, then made it back in time for the awards.

Individual events in the Pioneer Games were: Paul's Gang--Cross-cut Saw, Pioneer Railsplit, and Bucket Brigade; Roanoke--Arm Wrestling, Pancake Relay; Hodgenville Fire Dept.--Skillet Throw; Hodgenville PTO--Water Boil; Buffalo PTO--Tug-o-War; Childress & Sloan Hairdressers--Rail Fence Building; 210 Productions--Rail Ride. (to page 2)

Lincoln Days

(from page 1)

Railsplitting winners were: Amateur--Terry Gardner, Sonora, followed by David LaFollette of Roanoke and Jackie Nunn of Roanoke; Junior--Mark Baird, Hodgenville, followed by Kim Quinn; Professional--Doug Wolpert of Lincoln, Ill. Second and third were Ronald Heibert and James Trunnett, both of Roanoke.

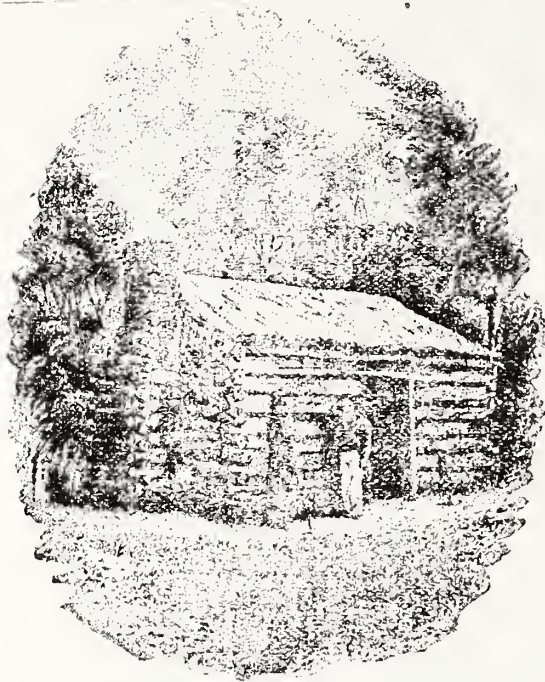
The Horse Parade's winners were: Vernon Huffines, oldest participant at 71; Julie Skaggs, 5, youngest rider; J. A. Eastridge, best horse drawn vehicle; Don Coffman of Charleston, W. Va., rider traveling the greatest distance; the 4-H Wranglers, club with most riders; Tom Hines, best mule team; Frankie Weller, best male rider and Margie Scott, best female rider.

The Wranglers' own competition for best groomed horse and rider was won by Stephanie Meredith, Kelly Thompson, Michelle Farris and Joseph Blair, in that order.

Horse games, a new event this year, were sponsored by Jean Hatcher in memory of her husband Earl, who was well known for his interest in horses. Winners were: Greg Helm riding Ed Cundiff (the four-legged one)--musical sacks; Joseph Blair riding Sundust--egg class; Frankie Weller and Pat Heath riding Bar--scoop race; Frankie Weller and Johnnie Meredith riding Star--rescue race; and Sharon Allen riding Midnight--catalog race.

For events and winners not listed in this article, look elsewhere in the paper.

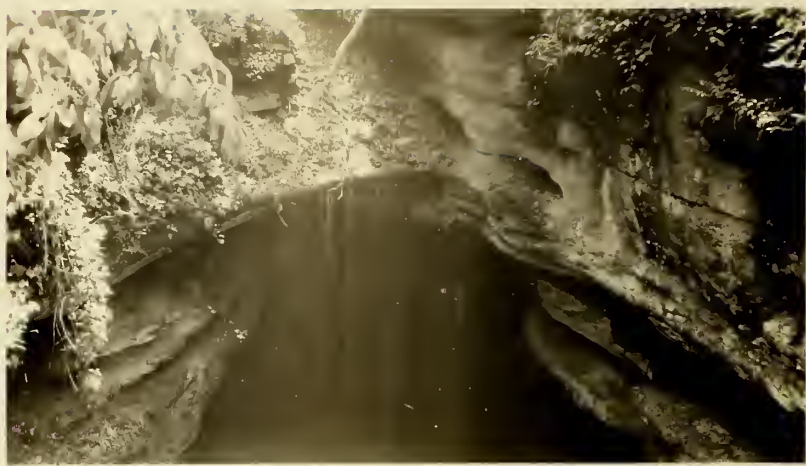
EARLY ILLINOIS CABIN OF THE LINCOLNS



LINCOLN'S EARLY HOME IN ILLINOIS.

Birth Place of Abraham Lincoln, Hardin County, Ky.





The Boundary Oak

This venerable white oak is the ~~sole~~
sole survivor of all that was living
here at the time of Abraham ~~Lincoln~~
Lincoln's birth February 12, 1809

This tree was a landmark at the
time the earliest settlers came
to this region. It is mentioned as
a boundary marker in the original
1805 survey of the tract that later
became the ~~farm of Thomas~~ Thomas Lincoln farm.
The tree is 200 feet in diameter,
about ninety feet ~~high~~ tall, has a spread
of 115 feet and is calculated to be
300 years old.

$$\begin{array}{r} 101.4 \\ 98.9 \\ \hline 2.5 = 2\frac{1}{2} \end{array} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Spring} \\ \text{Knob Creek} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 107.4 \\ 98.9 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Spring} \\ \text{Knob Creek} \end{array} \right\}$$



THE CREEK NEAR LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE
In this stream the boy Lincoln fished and swam



Spring on Lincoln Farm, Hoddenville. Kv.



1327



Christmas at Lincoln's Birthplace

MADE IN U.S.A.

A. Bright and Merry Christmas to You

Lyndon C. Lawton



LINCOLN CABIN, LINCOLN NATIONAL PARK.



LINCOLN'S HOME, SPRINGFIELD, ILL.



*Lincoln's Birthplace Reconstructed from the Original Logs,
now in the Memorial at Hodgenville, Kentucky*



1877

